

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Update

Governor announces 2008 Indiana Mr. Math and Miss Science

May 27, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels made surprise visits to Zionsville Community High School and Terre Haute South Vigo High School last Tuesday to announce the inaugural winners of the annual Hoosier High School Math and Science Awards. Zionsville student Samuel Dittmer was named "Indiana Mr. Math," and Swara Kopparty of Terre Haute earned the title "Indiana Miss Science."

"It's past time to give our top math and science students at least as much praise and recognition as we have always showered on our athletes. Honestly, Indiana and America's future success is far more dependent on young people like Swara and Sam," said Daniels.

Dittmer, the Zionsville Community High School valedictorian, was selected from among 190 candidates by a panel of high school mathematics teachers, university mathematics professors, Department of Education staff, and math professionals. He scored a 800/800 on the SAT II, 5/5 on the Advanced Placement Calculus BC exam, and earned no grade lower than an "A" as a student of Zionsville Community High School.

Kopparty was selected from among 160 candidates by a panel of high school science teachers, university science professors, Department of Education staff, and science professionals. She scored an 800/800 on the SAT Physics exam, completed all science courses with a grade of "A," completed all science and math Advanced Placement exams with a score of 5/5, and has numerous competition achievements.

McGraw-Hill Education is providing each winner with a \$2,000 academic scholarship.

The awards were developed with input from the Indiana Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (I-STEM) Network, the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (HASTI), the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) and the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents.

[Read the Mr. Math release](#)

[Read the Miss Science release](#)



May 27, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels made a surprise visit to Terre Haute South Vigo High School to announce that senior Swara Kopparty is 'Indiana Miss Science,' the inaugural winner of the annual Hoosier High School Science Award.



May 27, 2008- Governor Daniels visited Zionsville Community High School to present senior Samuel Dittmer the inaugural 'Hoosier High School Math Award.'

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor to make fourth trip to Japan

May 30, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels will meet with officials from more than a dozen Japanese companies when he travels to Japan for the fourth time the week of June 9.

"From my business experience, persistence and consistency are very important, maybe more so in Japan. We have several ongoing active conversations with Japanese companies that we believe could lead to Hoosier jobs. And, as always, it is good practice to thank our customers," said Daniels.

Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi and Sony are among the companies the governor will meet with while in Tokyo and Nagoya. He will depart on June 9 and will return to Indiana on Saturday, June 14.

Secretary of Commerce and CEO of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) Nate Feltman, Executive Vice President and General Counsel Chad Sweeney and Director of International Development Steve Akard will arrive in Japan two days ahead of the governor and conduct business meetings. Three IEDC sponsors of the trip, Vectren Corporation, ProLiance Energy and Duke Energy, will send representatives who will meet with their clients while in the country. No state delegation will accompany the governor and IEDC on this trip.

Daniels will arrive in Japan the evening of June 10. The following day he will pay a courtesy call to Nippon Steel Corporation, meet with Fujio Cho, chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation as well as with leaders of Mitsui Mining and Smelting Company, Mitsubishi Corporation and Fuji Heavy Industries.

On June 12, the governor will visit Sony Corporation, meet with Honda President and CEO Takeo Fukui and finish the day with a dinner meeting with KYB Corporation.

The final day of business, June 13, the governor and IEDC officials will travel to Nagoya for several courtesy and job-prospecting calls. The group will also host a Friends of Indiana reception in the city.

Since 2005, Japanese companies have invested nearly \$1.5 billion in Indiana, creating nearly 5,500 new jobs. More than 220 Japanese companies operate in Indiana. Following the governor's 2007 trip to Japan, Toyota Boshoku Corporation made the decision to locate a new seat frame production and assembly facility in Princeton, creating more than 300 jobs.

After trips to Japan and Taiwan in 2005 and 2006, Indiana became home to a new Toyota plant in Lafayette, a new Honda plant in Greensburg that will open this fall and employ about 2,000 people and suppliers to those companies, such as TS Tech and Tomasco. Indiana is first in North America in foreign investment for manufacturing jobs, according to a 2007 study from IBM.



May 27, 2008- Governor Daniels stopped to meet the staff at Turkey Run State Park while traveling through Parke County on his motorcycle.



May 27, 2008- Governor Daniels with Dixie Hunt at the Bloomingdale General Store.



May 27, 2008- Governor Daniels stopped to refuel his bike at JT's Marathon station in Rosedale during a motorcycle ride through the western part of the state.



Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? [Click here](#) for more!

Consumer products manufacturer to bring 190 jobs to Elkhart

May 29, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from consumer products manufacturer KIK Custom Products last week to announce the company's plans to consolidate some of its contract manufacturing of personal care and household products in Elkhart, expand its operations and create approximately 190 new jobs by the end of 2009.

The maker of brand name personal care and household products for global companies such as Johnson & Johnson, L'Oreal, Proctor & Gamble, and Unilever, is expected to invest more than \$7 million to build and equip three new production lines, three new gashouses and a new compounding operation at the company's existing 1.2 million square-foot facility.

"We continue to outrun all of our Midwestern competitors for new job-creating investments from great companies like KIK Custom Products, but we can't let up for a minute. We must continue to look for and land new opportunities to further strengthen and develop Indiana's economy," said Daniels.

KIK Custom Products, which currently employs 700 in Elkhart, expects to begin hiring line technicians, mechanics, forklift drivers, line operators and packers in the next 60 days, ahead of the start of new production scheduled for late summer.

Governor helps dedicate Benton County wind farm

May 29, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined Benton County residents, elected officials and representatives from BP Alternative Energy North America and Dominion Resources last week to commemorate the construction of the 50,000 acre Fowler Ridge Wind Farm in Benton County.

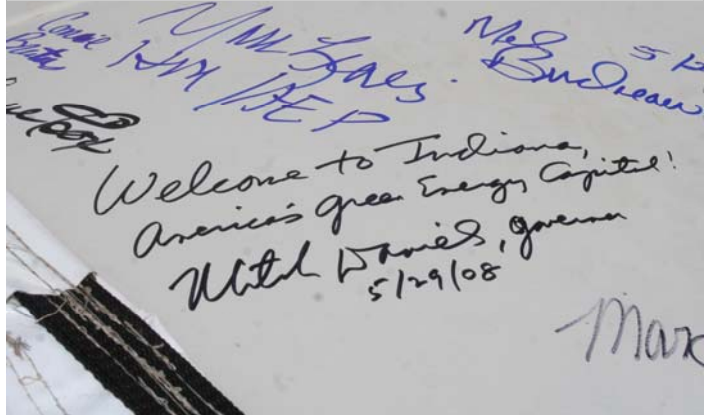
Phase one of the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm is expected to employ approximately 350 workers at the peak of construction. The project will employ a full-time staff of more than 12 workers to monitor and maintain the 222 wind turbines on-site after phase one has become fully operational.

"This will be one of the biggest wind farms of its kind," said Daniels. "We need more energy, more homegrown energy and cleaner energy. This is a big deal"

The two-phase project will eventually produce enough carbon-free electricity to power more than 200,000 average American homes.



May 29, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels signed a wind turbine blade to be used at the 50,000 acre Fowler Ridge Wind Farm in Benton County. When complete, the project will produce enough carbon-free electricity to power more than 200,000 average American homes.



May 29, 2008- Governor Daniels added his name to a wind turbine blade at the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm under construction in Benton County. The first phase of the project, to be completed by the end of the year, includes 222 wind turbines which will produce approximately 400 megawatts.

[Listen to audio from the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm announcement](#)

What's Happening In My County

[visit the IN.gov map feature >](#)



A Look Ahead...

...This week Governor Daniels will travel to Elkhart, Granger, Mishawaka, South Bend, Muncie, Bloomington and Fort Wayne.